

31 July 1959

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SURVEY (NIS)

1. Production during FY 1959 brought to 4,754 the total of sections (including 722 on Maintenance) produced during the eleven years of the NIS program. This represents 76% of initial world-wide coverage, with the JCS highest priority areas essentially complete and under active Maintenance. Production during the year was adversely affected by manpower reductions and diversions in the contributing agencies. There was improvement in the quality of collection, research, and final product. In addition to some 128,000 copies of NIS units disseminated during the year to meet standing requirements of USIB and authorized other recipients, approximately 30,000 copies were drawn from reserve stock in characteristic reflection of emerging world situations.

2. During the year CINCNELM issued a special report on use of the NIS in connection with the 1958 Lebanon landings. Based on extensive comments from the principal commands involved, the report emphasized the value of the full spectrum of NIS content coverage and the importance of the on-hand availability of the NIS at time of emergency. At the same time the report drew specific attention to lack of adequate comprehensive Maintenance, thereby confirming the 1955 conclusion of the Clark Task Force of the Hoover Commission that "There will always be a continuing requirement for keeping this Survey up to date" and underlining continuing NIS Committee concern with providing an adequate Maintenance base for more than 4,000 published NIS sections.

3. A staff study prepared by the Office of Basic Intelligence pointed out that the existing level of NIS effort in the contributing agencies could not concurrently support both completion of initial world-wide coverage and comprehensive Maintenance production on an acceptably timely basis. The study made clear that more timely Maintenance would as a minimum require sustained contributor effort at the full annual level of 8 equivalent NIS approved by the JCS (from which FY 1960 shortfalls have already been announced by Army and Navy), and in addition would require selective scheduling in terms of Maintenance priorities in areas and topics. At the close of the fiscal year the contributing agencies were preparing their respective proposals for implementing this selective Maintenance program.